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12.12.17

Does Wentz's injury mean new pecking order?

The Eagles are still talented, but losing an MVP-caliber QB is a huge blow for the NFC East champs. **Mike Jones, In Sports**

USA TODAY SPORTS

NEWSLINE

IN NEWS

What to watch in Alabama's election

What demographics will determine the winner of today's Senate vote

California wildfire engulfs 230,500 acres

Fifth-largest wildfire in state's history has destroyed almost 800 structures

IN MONEY

West Coast is best for selling your home

Markets vary, but several factors have turned the West into a seller's market

IN SPORTS

KIM KLEMENT/USA TODAY SPORTS

New Yankee Stanton unleashes on Marlins

Slugger pulls no punches in leaving "the circus times there" in Miami

IN LIFE

LUCASFILM LTD.

'Jedi' lands this week like a laser blast

Catch up with your favorite characters before the next *Star Wars* episode

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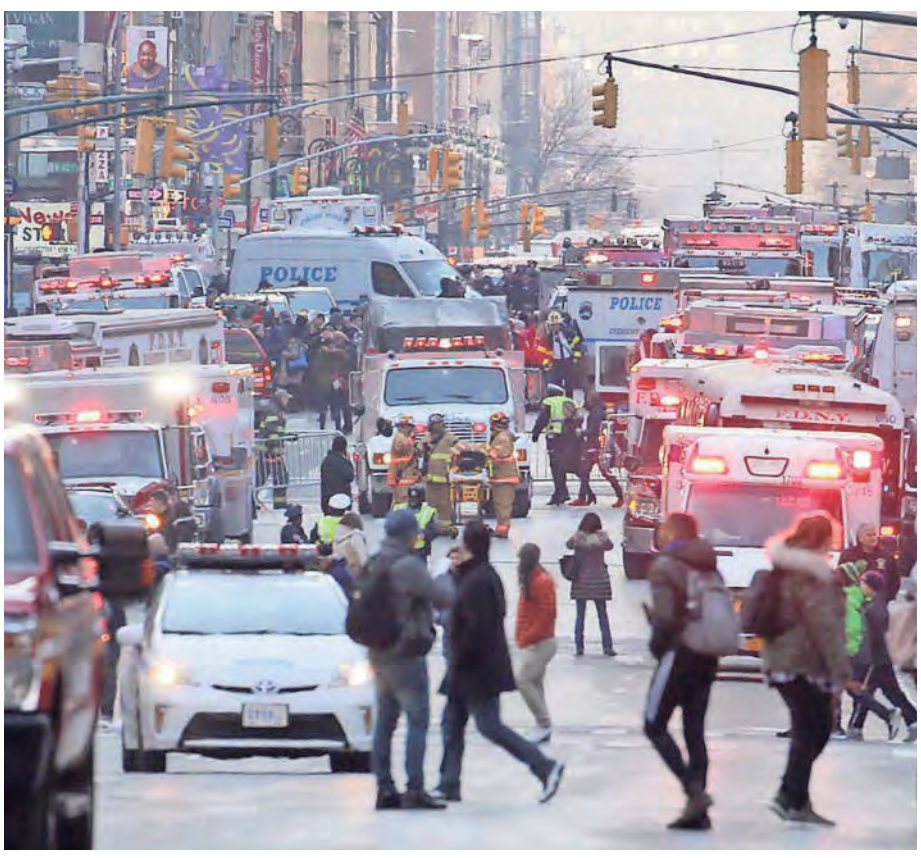
USA SNAPSHOTS©

SOURCE National Christmas Tree Association
MIKE B. SMITH, ALEX GONZALEZ/USA TODAY

TIMES SQUARE EXPLOSION

Bomber sought holiday impact, but blast fizzled

Bangladesh native accused of ISIS-inspired terror attack



Eighth Avenue in Manhattan is filled with police and fire department equipment and personnel after an explosion in a subway passageway.
SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS VIA USA TODAY NETWORK

Kevin Johnson, John Bacon and Kevin McCoy
USA TODAY

NEW YORK – The suspect in an attempted terror attack near Times Square told investigators he specifically timed the assault to coincide with the Christmas season for the greatest possible impact — lashing out in the name of the Islamic State, a law enforcement official said Monday.

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly during the investigation, said Akayed Ullah, a Bangladesh native in the USA since 2011, was cooperating with authorities from the New York City Police Department, and the FBI was interrogating him.

Ullah, 27, wore an improvised, low-tech explosive device he detonated in a crowded pedestrian tunnel during the rush hour around 7:20 a.m. ET, Police Commissioner James O'Neill said.

"Let's be clear that this was an attempted terror attack. Thank God, the perpetrator did not achieve his ultimate goal."

Mayor Bill de Blasio

Ullah, who lives in Brooklyn, was rushed to Bellevue Hospital with burns on his abdomen and hands. Three people near him were injured.

Ullah expected to die in the attack and believed that others would perish

See BLAST, Page 2A

Transgender troops can join military on Jan. 1

Court order blocks Trump's attempt to keep recruits from serving

Tom Vanden Brook
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon will begin accepting transgender troops Jan. 1, complying with a federal court order that overrules President Trump's pledge to ban them from the military.

The White House and Pentagon confirmed Monday that the military would put in place policies that permit the services to accept new recruits. Those plans had been formulated under the Obama administration, which had scheduled them to take effect July 1.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said the Pentagon would comply with federal court orders to accept new transgender troops.

"As of right now, they're simply complying with a court order and preparing to implement a previous policy to remain in compliance," Sanders said. "The Department of Justice is currently reviewing the legal options to ensure that the president's directive can be implemented."

The Defense Department delayed implementation of the Obama-era plan, and Trump tweeted in late July that he wanted to ban transgender troops from serving. Those actions have triggered court challenges by advocates for transgender troops, and courts have generally sided with them.

The Pentagon acknowledged in a statement Monday that it would comply with an order from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to implement policy on accepting transgender troops announced last year by then-Defense secretary Ash Carter.

The Pentagon "and the Department

See TROOPS, Page 2A

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis stresses readiness in the military.
JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

Sexual misconduct scandals reverberate anew

Hollywood makes a statement with Golden Globe nominations

From coast to coast, the aftershocks of sexual misconduct continued to rock the nation Monday.

In Hollywood, the 2018 Golden Globes nominations celebrated female characters overcoming trauma and abusive men while snubbing male stars accused of sexual harassment or assault.

Kevin Spacey was replaced by Christopher Plummer in a movie about the kidnapping of John Paul Getty III; the film earned three Globes nominations, including best supporting actor for Plummer. *House of Cards*, Spacey's Netflix drama previously nominated for eight Golden Globes, failed to earn a single nomination this year. **In Life**

Mario Batali AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Celebrity chef Batali steps aside

In New York, TV star chef Mario Batali said he is stepping down from his company and show for an indefinite period after being accused of sexual harassment and inappropriate touching. Multiple anonymous women said in the online food trade publication *Eater New York* that Batali had groped their breasts or buttocks. **In Money**

Trump accusers have their say

In Washington, three women who have accused President Trump of sexually harassing or assaulting them before the 2016 election called for a congressional investigation of his behavior. Last week, Democratic and Republican members of Congress were forced to resign over sexual misconduct complaints. **In News**

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